

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01731 100855Z

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1731

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: WATER MARGIN: TENG'S COMMENTS TO NEW ZEALAND

1. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR HARLAND, WHO SAT IN ON NEW ZEALAND JOURNALISTS' SEPT 5 MEETING WITH VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, CONFIRMS PRESS REPORTS THAT WATER MARGIN WAS A PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF SESSION WITH TENG.

2. HARLAND TOLD US SEPT 8 THAT TENG CLAIMED WATER MARGIN CAMPAIGN WAS VIRTUALLY ENTIRELY DIRECTED INTERNALLY BUT ACKNOWLEDGED IT HAS EXTERNAL SIGNIFICANCE SINCE PURPOSE OF CAMPAIGN IS TO INSURE THAT CHINA DOES NOT BECOME REVISIONIST AND SOCIAL IMPERIALIST. HE SAID CAMPAIGN WAS CONTINUATION OF 19-YEAR EFFORT TO PREVENT REVISIONISM AND RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM.

3. TENG TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH SPECULATION IN WESTERN QUARTERS THAT CAMPAIGN SIGNIFIED TROUBLE WITHIN CHINA AND CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. THIS SPECULATION GROWS OUT OF COMPLETE MISUNDERSTANDING, TENG SAID, OF WHAT SUCH CAMPAIGNS ARE ALL ABOUT. WATER MARGIN CAMPAIGN REPRESENTS CONTINUING STRUGGLE AGAINST BOURGEOISIE.

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01731 100855Z

4. ASKED BY JOURNALISTS TO GIVE EXAMPLES OF CAPITULATIONISTS, TENG IMMEDIATELY NAMED LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO AND HE STOPPED THERE.

5. HARLAND TOLD US ALSO THAT TENG RELATED CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO SUCCESSION PROBLEM AND THE NEED TO MAKE SURE, AS TENG PUT IT, THAT CHAIRMAN MAO'S LINE BE RETAINED IN THE FUTURE. EDUCATION OF YOUNGER LEADERS WAS ONE REASON FOR WATER MARGIN AS WELL AS OTHER CAMPAIGNS.

6. HARLAND DREW OUR ATTENTION TO FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORTS AS TO WHAT TENG SAID ABOUT INDIVIDUAL TARGETS OF CAMPAIGN. HARLAND NOTED THAT TENG AT NO POINT SAID EXPLICITLY THAT THE CAMPAIGN WAS NOT RPT NOT AIMED AT INDIVIDUALS, BUT NEITHER WAS HE ASKED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THIS.
THAYER

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